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16. (Amended) In a method for the manufacture of cellulosic materials in which cellulosic fibers are bleached with an oxidizing agent, the improvement comprises using as the oxidizing agent [the solution of Claim 13] a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution prepared by the following steps:

a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;

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b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;

c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,

d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

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17. (Amended) In a method for the control of microbiofouling in a recreational water system in which an oxidizing agent is added to control microbiofouling, the improvement comprises using as the oxidizing agent [the solution of Claim 13] a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution prepared by the following steps:

a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;

b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;

c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,

d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

18. (Amended) In a method for the control of microbiofouling occurring on the surfaces of equipment in contact with produced oil field waters, the improvement comprises adding to the produced oil field waters an anti-microbiofouling effective amount of [the solution of Claim 13] a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution prepared by the following steps:

a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;

b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;

c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,

d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

9/19. (Amended) A method of controlling microbiofouling in an aqueous system which comprises adding to the aqueous system an effective, anti-microbiofouling amount of [the solution of Claim 13] a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution prepared by the following steps:

a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;

b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;

c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,

d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

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(Amended) A method of preventing microbiofouling on the surfaces of equipment in contact with in an industrial water system which comprises adding to the aqueous system an anti-microbiologically effective amount of a stabilized sodium hypobromite solution, said solution having been prepared by the steps of:

- a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;
- b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to [30] 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;
- c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite [an aqueous solution of an alkali metal sulfamate in a quantity to provide a molar ratio of sulfamate to hypobromite of from about 0.5 to about 7] a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,
- d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution.

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23. (Amended) The method of Claim [22] 20, wherein the stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of urea, thiourea, creatinine, cyanuric acids, alkyl hydantoins, mono or di ethanolamine, organic sulfonamides, biuret, sulfamic acid, organic sulfamates and melamine.